



National Book Foundation

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# **2013 NATIONAL BOOK AWARDS LONGLIST FOR YOUNG PEOPLE’S LITERATURE**

## **NATIONAL BOOK FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES FIRST OF FOUR LONGLISTS**

**New York, NY (September 16, 2013, 9:30 a.m.)** – The National Book Foundation announces the 2013 Young People’s Literature Longlist for the National Book Award. This is the first time in the history of the National Book Awards that the Foundation has presented a Longlist for all four categories of its Awards. Finalists will be revealed on October 16.

Among this year’s Longlist for Young People’s Literature are three National Book Award Finalists, two Newbery Medal winners, a Newbery Honor Book, and two Michael L. Printz Award winners.

The ten novels that comprise the Longlist address important contemporary issues, including the immigrant experience, coming of age as an LGBT teen, and the impact of technology on civilization. China’s 1898 Boxer Rebellion, futuristic Brazil, and the Louisiana Bayou are just some of the novels’ imaginative settings, and the protagonists range from ordinary children to creatures with extraordinary powers.

### **2013 Longlist for Young People’s Literature:**

**Kathi Appelt**, *The True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp*  
Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster

**Kate DiCamillo**, *Flora and Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures*  
Candlewick Press

**Lisa Graff**, *A Tangle of Knots*  
Philomel Books/Penguin Group (USA)

**Alaya Dawn Johnson**, *The Summer Prince*  
Arthur A. Levine Books/Scholastic

**Cynthia Kadohata**, *The Thing About Luck*  
Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster

**David Levithan**, *Two Boys Kissing*  
Alfred A. Knopf/Random House

**Tom McNeal**, *Far Far Away*  
Alfred A. Knopf/Random House

**Meg Rosoff**, *Picture Me Gone*  
G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Group (USA)

**Anne Ursu**, *The Real Boy*  
Walden Pond Press/HarperCollins Publishers

**Gene Luen Yang**, *Boxers & Saints*  
First Second/Macmillan

**Authors' biographies:**

**Kathi Appelt** was a National Book Award Finalist in Young People's Literature in 2008 for *The Underneath*, which was also a Newbery Honor Book in 2009. She lives in Texas.

**Kate DiCamillo** was a National Book Award Finalist in Young People's Literature in 2001 for *The Tiger Rising*. She won a Newbery Medal in 2004 for *The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread*. She lives in Minnesota.

**Lisa Graff** is the author of five chapter books. She also writes YA novels under the pseudonym Isla Neal. She lives in Pennsylvania.

**Alaya Dawn Johnson** graduated from Columbia University in 2004 with a BA in East Asian Languages and Cultures. She lives in New York City.

**Cynthia Kadohata** won a Newbery Medal in 2005 for *Kira-Kira*. She lives in Los Angeles.

**David Levithan** has written over ten books for young adults. He is Vice President and Editorial Director of Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic, Inc. He lives in New York City.

**Tom McNeal** is the author of several books for children; many written with his wife, Laura McNeal, who was a National Book Award Finalist in 2010. McNeal is also an award-winning author of novels and short stories for adults. He lives in Southern California.

**Meg Rosoff** was born in Boston, Massachusetts and lives in London. She won the Michael L. Printz Award in 2005 for *How I Live Now*.

**Anne Ursu** is the author of several books for children and adults. *The Real Boy* is her fifth book for young people. She lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Gene Luen Yang's** *American Born Chinese* won the Michael L. Printz Award and was the first graphic novel honored as a National Book Award Finalist in 2006. Yang also served as a National Book Award Judge. He lives in San Jose, California.

Publishers submitted a total of 298 books for the 2013 National Book Award in Young People's Literature. Five distinguished Judges were given the charge of selecting what they deem to be the best books of the year. Their decisions are made independently of the National Book Foundation staff and Board of Directors; deliberations are strictly confidential. To be eligible for a 2013 National Book Award, a book must have been written by a US citizen and published in the United States between December 1, 2012 and November 30, 2013.

### **2013 Judges for the Longlist in Young People's Literature:**

**Deb Caletti** was a National Book Award Finalist in Young People's Literature in 2004 for *Honey, Baby, Sweetheart*, which was the recipient of numerous other awards and honors, including the PNBA Best Book award, the Washington State Book award, and the SLJ Best Book award. <http://debcaletti.com>

**Cecil Castellucci** is the author of books and graphic novels for young adults, including *Boy Proof*, *The Plain Janes*, *The Year of the Beasts*, and *Odd Duck*. She is the YA editor of the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, Children's Correspondence Coordinator for The Rumpus, and a two time MacDowell Fellow. She lives in Los Angeles. <http://castellucci.wordpress.com>

**Peter Glassman** has been a bookseller for 38 years and is the founder and owner of Books of Wonder, one of the foremost bookstores in the country for young people's literature. He is also the author of three picture books and the editor of the Books of Wonder Classics series published by HarperCollins.

**E. Lockhart (Chair)** was a Finalist for the 2008 National Book Award in Young People's Literature for her novel *The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks*, which was also a Michael L. Printz Award Honor Book and a Cybils Award winner. Her most recent book, *Real Live Boyfriends*, is the fourth book in the Ruby Oliver series. [www.emilylockhart.com](http://www.emilylockhart.com)

**Lisa Von Drasek** is the Curator of the Children's Literature Research Collections of the University of Minnesota. Prior to accepting this appointment, she was the Director of the Center for Children's Literature and Children's Librarian of the Bank Street College of Education in

New York City. She reviews children's books for *The New York Times* and blogs about children's and young adult books on [EarlyWord.com](http://EarlyWord.com).

The remaining Longlists for the Poetry, Nonfiction, and Fiction categories will be revealed exclusively at [thedailybeast.com](http://thedailybeast.com) at 9:00 a.m. (EDT) as follows: Poetry on Tuesday, September 17; Nonfiction on September 18; and finally, the Longlist for Fiction on September 19.

The National Book Award Finalists will be announced on October 16, and the Winners at the invitation-only National Book Awards Ceremony and Gala on November 20 in New York City.

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*The National Book Foundation's mission is to celebrate the best of American literature, to expand its audience, and to enhance the cultural value of good writing in America. In addition to the National Book Awards, for which it is best known, the Foundation's programs include **5 Under 35**, a celebration of emerging fiction writers selected by former National Book Award Finalists and Winners; the **National Book Awards Teen Press Conference**, an opportunity for New York City students to interview the current National Book Award Finalists in Young People's Literature; **NBA on Campus**, a partnership that brings current National Book Award authors to Concordia College in Moorhead, MN; the **Innovations in Reading Prize**, awarded to individuals and institutions that have developed innovative means of creating and sustaining a lifelong love of reading; and **BookUp**, a writer-led, after-school reading club for middle- and high-school students, run in New York City and Texas.*

*The National Book Award is one of the nation's most prestigious literary prizes and has a stellar record of identifying and rewarding quality writing. In 1950, William Carlos Williams was the first Winner in Poetry, the following year William Faulkner was honored in Fiction, and so on through the years. Many previous Winners of a National Book Award are now firmly established in the canon of American literature, such as Sherman Alexie, Louise Erdrich, Jonathan Franzen, Denis Johnson, Joyce Carol Oates, and Adrienne Rich.*